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Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Bill J. Sherer - Chairman P.O. Box 516 - Boulder Junction, WI 54512 Phone: 715-385-0171/Fax: 715-385-2553

* e-mail: wetieit@centuryinter.net

T.U. Emphasizes Opposition to Mining

As Wisconsin Trout Unlimited prepares for the next century, our environment calls for more attention and protection, this organization has chosen to step to the forefront of the mining controversy. The Wisconsin State Council reiterates a commitment to it's mission: "To protect, enhance and restore all the cold water resources of the state."

We believe prevention of cold water degradation from mining is essential for salmonid and cold water conservation. The Council opposes permitting, constructing or operating the metallic mine proposed by Crandon Mining Company.

We firmly oppose the permitting, construction or operation based on the following facts:

Proposed ground and surface water removals would adversely draw down local wetlands, lake levels and stream flows to the detriment of resident aquatic life and human recreational uses. The proposed mine would alter flow regimes - especially that of the Wolf River - with particularly serious effects on aquatic organisms during periods of high summer temperatures. Ground water supplies upon which local residents depend would be adversely affected across a mileswide "cone of depression".

Proposed discharges from mining operations would transfer ground and surface waters and possibly living organisms from the Wolf River/Lake Michigan/St. Lawrence watershed to the Wisconsin/Mississippi River watershed with adverse hydrologic effects on fish and human use. The potentially negative biological and genetic consequences on native animals and plants will have grave consequences now and in the future.

Proposed placement of mine tailings ponds would destroy important ground water recharging wetlands. Even if such ponds were placed in upland locations, they would eventually leak or leach heavy metals and other contaminants to surface or ground waters regardless of the liner material used (no known liner material has lasted as long as the toxicity of the tailings).

Proposed discharge of treated water into the Wisconsin River - even if classified as "cleaner than the receiving body" will degrade water quality, cause long term accumulation of heavy metals and inevitably affect aquatic and human life. Wastewater that is unacceptable to discharge in an "Outstanding Resource Water" like the Wolf River is no more appropriate to discharge below a paper mill and hydroelectric dam on Wisconsin's namesake river.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is concerned that the overall cumulative negative impacts of the proposed mine on the regions water, aquatic and human resources will have long lasting negative secondary effects on the Northwoods' diverse and sustainable economy. The State Council believes the citizens of Northern Wisconsin have the right to protect their environment from the negative and disastrous impacts of mining.

October 13, 1997

TO: Assembly Environment Committee

SUBJECT: Mining Moratorium Bill (Assembly Bill 70/Senate Bill 3)

We thank you for the opportunity to voice our opinion on the proposed metallic sulfide mine in Crandon. A ban on metallic sulfide mining in Wisconsin until a similar mine can be shown to operate for 10 years and be reclaimed for 10 years without significant water contamination is the only safe way to go!

As a property owner on Ground Hemlock Lake for 32 years, we are approximately 1/4 mile east of the proposed toxic tailings dump and would be greatly and mostly affected by these tailings. The principle concerns which have been voiced by the Ground Hemlock Lake property owners, should a mine be developed. include the following:

- 1. The potential pollution of the lake and the contamination of well water due to ground water pollution from leakage of tailings impoundments. Because Hemlock Lake is much lower than the tailings pond, there is a greater chance that the lake will be polluted. The DNR has already admitted to this! Hemlock Lake and Hemlock Creek flow into Swamp Creek which flows into the Wolf River! TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE!
- The possible lowering of the water table resulting in loss of wells and lowering of the lake level. This is a very active spring lake with no water entering the lake other than these springs.
- 3. Dust and other air pollution which will directly affect the lake area, which is generally downwind from the mine site and tailings pond area. The ducks, geese, birds and other wild life will be carrying this toxic waste to other lakes in the area polluting the whole state of Wisconsin.
- 4. The potential loss of property values due to the impacts of mining. There are approximately 50 property owners on this lake.

Water is our most valuable resource. Please protect it. Our prayer is that this beautiful northern environment remains a recreational area for generations to come and we can do this by supporting the Mining Moratorium Bill, (Assembly Bill 70/Senate Bill 3). Thank you!

Sincerely,

Merlin a. Kuske Janice Kuske Merlin and Janice Kuske

1345 Servais Street

Green Bay, Wisconsin 54304

Motion Approved by the Membership of the Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (May 25, 1996)

Whereas, the Crandon Mining Company (CMC), formed by an alliance between Exxon and Rio Algom Ltd., has applied for a permit in Wisconsin to mine a large copper-zinc deposit only a few miles north of the Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (hereafter referred to as the lake district); and,

Whereas, the proposed CMC mining site and surrounding area is located in an environmentally fragile glacial till area with many lakes, streams and wetland areas; and,

Whereas, the CMC mine will be a hardrock metallic sulfide type mine which have proven to be particularly damaging to the environment due to the generation of acidic mine wastes; and,

Whereas, the proposed mine, which will be below the water table, will require the pumping of millions of gallons of water out of our area and into the Wisconsin River resulting in a drawdown of the water table and the potential for lowered lake levels; and,

Whereas, the CMC proposed Tailings Management Area (TMA), designed to contain several million tons of toxic mine waste forever, will utilize an experimental, untried, and untested liner system; therefore,

Be it resolved, that the lake district opposes the permitting of the proposed CMC mine; and,

Be it also resolved, that the lake district opposes the permitting of any mine in our area until such time in the future that a mining process is developed and operated which can be independently evaluated and scientifically verified and proven beyond doubt to have a negligible impact on an environment and ecosystem similar to ours; and,

Be it further resolved, that the lake district hereby authorizes its commissioners to represent the lake district between membership (elector) meetings and take any reasonable and responsible actions which they deem necessary, unless forbidden by the by-laws, to protect our lakes from any and all environmental degradation which might result from a proposed mining operation.

State of Wisconsin SECRETARY OF STATE Medicus, Tierancia 53702

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Resolved, That

-1) The name of Eau Claire Area Ecology Action. Inc., a Wisconsin corporation without stock and not for profit, is hereby changed to and shall hereafter be identified as "Northern Thunder, MC."

2) The purposes for which Northern Thunder is organized are hereby amended to the following: "to promote programs, especially in Wisconsin, for the preservation and enhancement of the naturall and human environments, with particular emphasis on replacing profit-oriented institutions with community owned and controlled resources, utilities, factories and stores."

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The undersigned officers of	Pau	Claire	Area	Ecology	Action.	Inc.	(now	changed
to Northern Thund	107	Tnc)						
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Jan Parl Daguer

This document was drafted by

Thomas Galazen

(Mame)



Kestrel Hawk Park Landfill 1989 Oakes Road Racine, WI 53406 (414) 884-7080 (414) 884-7096 Fax

October 9, 1997

State Representative Mark Duff and Members of the Assembly Environment Committee

Re: USA Waste's Opposition to Senate Bill 3

Dear Honorable Duff:

Thank you for convening a public hearing and allowing us to share our comments on the proposed moratorium bill for mining in Wisconsin. USA Waste is opposed to Senate Bill 3. We feel Senate Bill 3 would set a bad precedent regarding environmental regulations in Wisconsin. USA Waste believes that a moratorium or ban on an essential and legal economic activity that must comply with all State and Federal environmental laws as well as all mining laws and regulations is unreasonable. We are concerned that similar moratoriums or bans could be enacted that would affect the solid waste industry or other businesses. Such moratoriums could result in targeted industries being legislated out of existence. Please consider our comments as part of your hearing record and deliberations.

USA Waste is a national company that provides waste collection, transportation, disposal and recycling services throughout our country. We have approximately 160 landfills throughout 42 states. We operate in excess of 320 collection companies, over 160 transfer stations and employee over 17,000 people. In Wisconsin we operate two major landfills, one located in Racine and the other south of Watertown We also operate 3 collection companies and 1 transfer station. We service more than 500,000 residents and customers in the South Central and Southeastern parts of Wisconsin while employing more than 125 people.

We take great pride in operating our waste disposal facilities in compliance with all rules and regulations to provide a necessary service to our society. In comparing various environmental programs from state to state, Wisconsin can be complimented for its outstanding environmental rules and regulations. The Wisconsin DNR has been able to address complex and difficult environmental issues with a high degree of professionalism and expertise. In the waste disposal industry, we face many problems and issues similar to what the mining industry faces in establishing a new mine. These issues revolve around legitimate public concerns regarding the protection of the environment, human health and safety. Unfortunately these issues are often manipulated based on misconceptions, misinformation or political concerns. We do not believe that establishing moratoriums or bans on a specific industry is an effective way to achieve environmental goals.

October 9, 1997 Page 2

We have specific concerns regarding Senate Bill 3. Much of the key language in the bill is vague and ambiguous as related to technical or environmental issues. This language is open to misinterpretation and will undoubtedly result in extended litigation. The moratorium would require that old technology be employed until new technology is demonstrated. This goes against the basic principles of our society in which we take pride in developing innovative new ways to handle old problems.

The moratorium suggests that the DNR does not have the capabilities or technical expertise to make decisions regarding the development of the mine and the protection of the environment, public health, safety and welfare. To the contrary, we believe that the DNR has a well-defined process that can be followed. DNR has highly qualified people capable of making decisions regarding the application of technology to environmental issues to ensure the protection of human health, safety and welfare. DNR has the expertise to ensure the protection of the environment. We also believe the Wisconsin Legislature has already provided sufficient and adequate laws from which the DNR has implemented the necessary administrative codes to ensure environmental protection and the safety of human health and welfare.

One clear example that this process works in Wisconsin is the approval, implementation and ongoing closure of the Flambeau Mine in Ladysmith.

As a company providing environmental services, USA Waste is concerned that the precedent set by Senate Bill 3 may be expanded and directed at other industries. A small group who may want to legislate businesses or industries out of existence could then propose similar bans or moratoriums, resulting in a much weaker economy in Wisconsin. Such a national reputation would hurt our state's ability to achieve its economic development goals. A moratorium resulting in the application of old technology and preventing the implementation of new techniques and methods would result in Wisconsin's business and industry becoming non-competitive and isolated. As scientific experts become more capable of identifying real environmental issues that need to be corrected, relying on old technology will not allow our state to continue its positive reputation of environmental stewardship.

October 9, 1997 Page 3

As an industry, we do not want this unnecessary and ill-conceived regulation. We believe the DNR has the tools and expertise to address these issues and that the DNR will protect the environment. The State Legislature has provided laws that ensure the protection of the environment, human health, safety and welfare. USA Waste strongly urges the Assembly Committee on the Environment to reject Senate Bill 3. USA Waste would be most happy to discuss our concerns about Senate Bill 3 on a more specific or technical basis with any members of the Assembly Committee on the Environment.

We appreciate your efforts in conducting this public hearing and making our comments part of that public record.

Sincercl

Henry A. Koch, P.E.

District Manager

cc: Members of the Assembly Environment Committee

Local Assembly Representative for USA Waste of Wisconsin Operations

Pat Essie

608-266-7038

October 15, 1997

Representative Marc Duff Madison, Wisconsin Fax:

Dea Representative Duff,

Thanks for running a very good hearing yesterday. I think all would agree you did a nice job of keeping things in control while letting all speak their views.

I am faxing with this the sign-in sheets we had in the CFR tent for our P&H attendees. I am concerned that some of our folks may have thought that by signing in at the tent, that they had also registered their position with the committee. There are about 210 names on these sheets which we hope you will make sure get counted in as opposing the bill.

In that few, if any, of us had participated in a legislative hearing before, there was a fair amount of confusion as to where to go and what to do to make sure your voice was counted. I had people coming up to me all day long who didn't realize they had to sign in at the back table. Nor did they realize you had posted an order for speakers at that table. Perhaps in the future, those tables should be well marked.

Thanks again. We appreciate the time you give to this issue so that we are not rushed into legi slation that is unnecessary and damaging.

Sincerely,

Lowise Hermsen

P& I Mining Equipment

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P.S. Sorry this is not on my stationery.....working from home today.

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As elected officials representing the citizens of Wisconsin, we respectfully ask that you listen to and address the concerns of your constituents whom **DO NOT SUPPORT** Representative Spencer Black's Mining Moratorium Bill.

The undersigned want good science and balance, not emotional reaction and extremism, to

be the guiding principles behind a decision of this magnitude.

Mining is part of Wisconsin's past, present and can safely be a part of its future. With the Flambeau Mine in Ladysmith, the Wisconsin DNR has proven mining can be done in an environmentally safe manner. The Mining Moratorium Bill wants us to apply today's techstandards to 120-year-old mine with antique technology. This is unreasonable and economic suicide for Wisconsin.

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I am speaking (writing) in Opposition to the Mining Moratorium Bill. It simply is not needed!

I am a Professional Geologist living in LaCrosse, Wisconsin and working throughout Wisconsin evaluating potential mining sites for my employer. After 25 years of experience in the mining industry as well as having been a regulator with the Commonwealth of Kentucky government for a number of years within the Department of Mines and Minerals and having experienced first hand over 200 open pit and underground mining operations across the United States I feel very qualified to make the following statements about mining.

The mining industry in the United States is not the villain that it has been portrayed as being but is in fact striving to be a responsible corporate citizen working with the best technology available to meet the needs of insatiable supplying the demand for raw materials (minerals and metals) to the citizens of the US and the World. It is grossly unfair to compare present day modern mining companies and their mines with those that operated Times have changed, laws have 50 or 100 years ago. changed and technology has changed, all for the better.

However, with any industry and even each of you on a personal level, we make our daily decisions based upon the best information available at the time and then we move forward using that information. Looking backward with 20/20 vision is too easy and only serves to help us correct for the future. We all should learn from our mistakes or failures and the mining industry has a clear because of the economic mandate to do just that considerations at stake.

Our miners and mining companies have provided the raw materials that have made our Nation great in the world and we must continue that tradition, now over 220 years old. They supplied the raw materials that began and continue our massive automobile industry, supplied the raw material for the winning efforts through WW I, WW II, Korean War, Vietnam, and Desert Storm most recently, plus advanced the space program and the computer in your home or office.

We as a society have forgotten where things come from. The coins in your pocket originated at a copper sulfide mine, a nickel sulfide mine, a silver sulfide mine. The gold in your wedding band or other jewelry came from a gold sulfide mine, the platinum jewelry also came from a platinum sulfide mine and so on. The lead for car batteries and ammunition and lead crystal glass started at a lead sulfide mine. The zinc that galvanizes steel in

your car to prevent rust began in a zinc sulfide mine.

The list goes on and on. We simply cannot move society forward or even maintain the status quo without the mining of new raw materials such as minerals and metals.

The minerals of Wisconsin are in fact part of the mineral wealth of this Nation and to withhold them selfishly without valid reasons in unthinkable. Do we loose the next war simply because Wisconsin is withholding valuable zinc and copper resources? Of course not. Do we in Wisconsin want to witness 1997 as being the last year that metallic minerals are mined in the state? Is this to be the end of an era? Why should it? I can guarantee you that the world mining community is watching Wisconsin right now to see if we are open for business or closed.

After moving to Wisconsin 3 years ago from down south I was appalled at the anti-mining attitude prevalent here. We cannot move the economy of the state forward or provide jobs for the 4.5 million people here simply based upon tourism, hunting and snowmobiling. We have to produce goods and services and generate wealth which the mining industry does.

The fears about sulfide mining have been so grossly overplayed by the anti-mining group that I want you to

know that comparing a pile of sulfide mine tailings at a proposed Crandon mine situated on a well engineered and protected site is nothing like the horror stories and pictures shown of 100 year old mining districts in the western United States. My home town where my parents who are in there late 70's live derives its sole source of drinking water from a closed, underground zinc sulfide mine, furthermore, the town of Viburnum, Missouri derives its sole source of drinking water from a closed, underground lead sulfide mine. Both water supplies meet or exceed the safe drinking water standards set forth by the states and the EPA. If water is the real concern then simply require the mine to process its waste water to the same standards that municipal waste water treatment plants now abide by.

Finally, the real issues are these:

- 1. Be informed and open minded.
- 2. If you have not talked to a miner or visited a mine or in particular a sulfide mine then do so at once and see for yourself whats what.
- 3. Elected representatives such as yourselves are elected to make hard decisions and you are floundering on this one! Make your decision based upon risk analysis and

confidence in the laws of the state which are some of the toughest on mining in the US.

4. Take risks. To quote US Senator and former Astronaut John Glenn " we have become a society that is afraid to take risks. Without men and women who push forward and are willing to take risks our society will stagnate and falter. We do not and cannot live in a risk free environment. Our space program would never have gotten off the ground if the President and scientist and engineers involved had not been willing to take risks."

5. Withdraw the Mining Moratorium Bill and live in the present not 10 years into the future. Mining is important, it can and will be carried out safely and lawfully. SAY YES TO MINING BECAUSE YOUR FUTURE DEPENDS UPON IT.

Respectfully submitted,

Marh Hostitle

Mark Hostetter, CPG

LaCrosse, Wisconsin

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MINING MORATORIUM HEARING

Judy FASSborden

PREPARED STATEMENT

HSI GeoTrans has been working for nearly four years as a subcontractor to Foth and Van Dyke on the Crandon project. Our specific role has been to develop and apply a groundwater model to predict changes as a result of mining to the groundwater and surface water system. In addition, we are using a model to assess potential changes to chemical concentrations in the groundwater as a result of operation of the onsite Tailings Management Area. The findings from these studies are being used as input information for the Environmental Impact Statement that will be prepared as a part of the permitting process.

We believe that the proposed mining moratorium is unnecessary based on our experience with the Crandon Project. We believe that stringent review measures are being followed, public participation is taking place, and that the analysis and design has built-in conservative assumptions or factors-of-safety. The process that is being followed on the Crandon Project will likely set the standards for future environmentally responsible mining applications in Wisconsin.

As a part of the permitting process, the groundwater modeling work that we have performed has seen extensive and thorough review by the WDNR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Throughout the process they have suggested confirmatory work to be performed to verify the input to the model and have performed their own independent field work. They have suggested changes to the model to conservatively address aspects that they felt were uncertain. In our experience in working on groundwater related applications for over a decade, we have never seen the level of review that is being performed as a part of this project.

In addition to the review by the WDNR and USCOE, there has been extensive participation in the review process by Native American Tribes, environmental groups, and the general public. Over thirty meetings have been held where—these groups and individuals have had the opportunity to experience and participate in the review process. This level of participation is unprecedented, particularly when one considers that many other forums for public comment will take place as the permitting process continues. These forums include response to the draft environmental impact statement and the Master Hearing.

The modeling process involves simulation on two levels: the expected case (Best Engineering Judgement) and the Practical Worst Case. The Practical Worst Case is based on combinations of hydrologic parameters that tend to overestimate impacts. Because the review of the impacts and mitigation plans considers the Practical Worst Case scenarios, conservative estimates of impacts in excess of those actually observed will be used in determining the acceptability of the project.

In summary, we oppose the mining moratorium bill because we believe that a process is in place that provides insurance of environmentally responsible mining. This process is being followed on the Crandon project where intensive review by state and federal officials is being performed, a high level of public participation is taking place, and conservative estimates of impacts are being considered in the decision of acceptability.

October 14, 1997

Representative Marc. C. Duff Chair, Assembly Environmental Resources Committee Room 306 North, State Capitol P.O. Box 8952 Madison, Wi. 53708-8952

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

My name is Alan Christianson. I am City Administrator of Ladysmith, which I am more than proud to call "Home of the Flambeau Mine". My only regret about the Flambeau Mine is that it isn't going to be there for 5 more years; or, better yet 25. I wish to go on record in opposition to SB3 as it will serve to deny poorer northern communities like Ladysmith the opportunity to decide for themselves whether they want to enjoy strong economies that their southern counterparts do, by hosting environmentally responsible mining.

Some said explosions associated with blasting to loosen ore at the Flambeau Mine would crack foundations, walls and windows in Ladysmith. Despite living just one mile from the mine the only explosion I have been aware of is that of the local economy, where activity is at a record level. Consider these facts:

- * Construction activity stimulated directly or indirectly by the Flambeau Mine already exceeds \$27 million; perhaps not a lot by Madison or Milwaukee standards, but more than a lot by local standards. Consider that \$27 million is over one-third of the equalized value of Ladysmith; just under \$81 million.
- * Over 300 permanent jobs have been retained or created already as a result of mine stimulated projects, and twice that number are expected to result.
- * Over 425,000 sq. ft. of new commercial construction has been stimulated in Rusk County by the Flambeau Mine: over 100 sq. ft per capita for every resident of Ladysmith.

Some say the real impact of mining will be in the future. I believe that to be the case in Ladysmith, but in a different way. Even though economic activity has really taken off recently, stimulated by the Flambeau Mine and the tax revenue it has generated, most of the job growth and spinoff benefits we expect will be realized 3-5 years into the future, and beyond. That is because it will take some time to complete business expansion projects presently underway and for resultant hiring to occur.

Please defeat SB3 and let northern communities decide their own future.

Sincerely,

Alan Christianson

Alan (howstanion

SB 3 MINING MORATORIUM BILL

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Jeff Earnshaw; I am the Mine Manager of the Flambeau Mining Company in Ladysmith, Wisconsin. I would like to thank the committee for allowing me the opportunity to speak at to-day's hearing.

I would like to register my strong opposition to SB 3, the Mining Moratorium Bill.

My opposition is based on a sound understanding of the regulatory climate in which we work here in Wisconsin, the issues that are of paramount importance to all of us living in Wisconsin, and the technology that has been successfully applied at the Flambeau Mine to ensure that our environment has been adequately protected both during operations and for the future.

To-day I would like to present hard facts, based on actual operating experience gained at the Flambeau Mine during the course of four years of operation and nine months of reclamation activity.

It is unfortunate that certain sectors of our society prefer to discount the achievements of the Flambeau Mine, arguing that The Flambeau Mine has not been representative of a typical mining operation. Nothing could be farther from the truth. While it is true the Flambeau Mine did not process ore and produce a waste product (tailing) that required permanent storage, it did produce 4 million tons of waste rock containing greater than 1% sulfur. Waste rock that had the potential to produce acid, as would certain types of tailing, waste rock that had to be stored in a secure, fully contained area from which all drainage had to be treated prior to discharge into the Flambeau River. In other words, all the elements that cause serious concern to the general public, were present at Flambeau and were handled with current technologies and best management practices that are typical throughout the mining industry to-day.

Let us look a little more closely at a couple of specific concerns; waste containment and water treatment.

Flambeau has had the unique opportunity to evaluate the materials used to contain its potentially acid generating waste rock. As is typical in landfills as well as mining waste containments, a liner of the high density polyethylene was used to provide a layer of separation between the waste product and the ground. This liner material at Flambeau was covered by 4 million tons of waste rock for approximately 4 years. As the reclamation method at Flambeau called for this waste rock to be returned to the pit, we eventually reexposed the liner material and were able to inspect the liner for its general condition. Without exception the liner was totally in tact with all welded seams in excellent condition. As a further check, we sampled the till below the liner and confirmed that no contamination had occurred. In other words, the containment system performed as anticipated and provided full protection to the environment.

The performance of the Flambeau Water Treatment Plant and the quality of the water discharged to the Flambeau River has been well documented. During its lifetime the plant processed and discharged over 570 million gallons of water to the Flambeau River, removing copper and zinc metals and suspended solids. The average copper content of the treated effluent was 12 parts per billion. That is 100 times better than the State requirement for drinking water which is 1300 parts per billion. The plant operated problem -free over the life of the project and again demonstrates the ability to fully protect the environment.

In conclusion, the Flambeau Mine has demonstrated that mines can operate in an environmentally sensitive manner, basing operating practices on current technologies applied within a regulatory framework that already demands adherence to best available management and operating practices.

Ten years of "waiting and seeing" simply is not necessary.

Mining Moratorium - Senate Bill 3

October 7, 1997 By Ron Vick

"It was the mining industry that turned me into a radical environmental activist in 1969." This is what Dr. Patrick Moore, a founding member of Greenpeace stated earlier this year. Dr. Moore now affirms that environmental activists are not interested in environmentally responsible mining, they want no mining (and no logging, no economic growth, no human involvement in the public lands).

I am strongly opposed to SB 3 and am growing wary of people who continue to use scare tactics to try to convince citizens and legislators that sulfide mining will destroy the Earth. Dr. Moore admitted that he was wrong - now its time for the rest of the radical environmental activists to do the same.

Look at the absurd statements you are getting bombarded with. "The quality of Wisconsin's forests, wetlands and waters are threatened by huge mining proposals across our Northwoods, including Exxon's Crandon Mine project." How could anything be threatened by a huge proposal? It is simply not right to ban mining based on statements like this. There is no "threat." If there is a real problem with the proposal, it will not make it through the permitting process. Mining oppositionists know this so they are attempting to block mining before it gets to permitting - thus Senate Bill 3. "Because no company has ever mined in this type of sulfide rich rock without polluting surface and groundwater Wisconsin needs to ban sulfide mining until the industry has demonstrated it can operate without environmental damage." Wake up people - the Flambeau Mine (a sulfide deposit in NW Wisconsin) has operated for over four years without any environmental damage and as of today has successfully cleaned 573,132,000 gallons of water with no threat to Wisconsin's forests, wetlands and water. No fish or clams have died; protecting water is not rocket science.

But they know that also so they say operate 10 years and be closed 10 years without environmental damage. What scientific reason is there for picking ten years over four years or over one day? If the protection is in place and is maintained, there will be no environmental damage despite the time involved. The DNR assures it - let these people do their jobs. Again, let's not delay permitting of projects if they can be constructed, operated and maintained in such a way to prevent damage. The permitting process will determine this not some other mine with obvious different conditions. The real fallacy of SB3 is that if one or two or ten mines meet the bill criteria, it doesn't guarantee that the next one will. There are different conditions and there are different people at each project.

It is true that in the past, a few mining operations (along with most other industries) have caused repairable environmental damage. Improvements have and will continue to be made to reduce effects on the environment because it is the right thing to do. The technology now exists to construct and operate a mine while protecting the environment. In fact, the water discharged into

the Flambeau River from the Flambeau mine site is much cleaner than the river, ground water <u>and drinking water</u> in this and most other areas of the state.

Who am I to say...? I was born in Milwaukee, grew up one block from Lake Michigan in Whitefish Bay and spent many summer days at a friend's cottage north of Minocqua. I am a University of Tulsa graduate and have worked in mining for 22 years. I am an executive member of the Lake Superior Mines Safety Council, member of the American Society of Safety Engineers and a Certified Safety Professional. Mines I have worked at have earned many environmental and safety awards including Flambeau's 1995 Wisconsin Corporate Safety Award. I pay taxes and vote. I appreciate Wisconsin's pristine environment and I work hard to protect and enhance it.

Here's some more mining opposition gibberish "Our state's mining laws have many loopholes, including some which give the DNR the ability to waive health and safety standards." In mining, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, (MSHA) a division of the US Department of Labor establishes and enforces health and safety regulations. The DNR does not have the authority to waive health and safety standards nor does anyone else. Actually the opposite is true, the DNR reminds us that if there is a conflict, human health and safety take precedence over protecting the environment - a point that should be obvious but that we don't hear very often. At the Flambeau Mine we establish health and safety rules, policies and procedures designed to protect our employees despite what latitude we may have from any of the regulators. We have done the right thing, our record proves it and I am proud to have been involved in establishing the safety program and working closely with the Environmental Department. Certainly rational people understand that protection of health, safety and the environment are all possible.

They say mining will ruin hunting and fishing. Yes, I must admit, that in Colorado, Utah and Idaho elk migrated to mine sites during hunting season for protection from hunters. We didn't allow hunting on mine property for obvious reasons and, guess what, our pollution didn't kill anything because there wasn't any pollution. I worked at three mines that had concentrators and tailings. Of these, one was an underground operation, one used cyanide and one was on the banks of the Salmon River. None of these mines caused damage to the environment or affected hunting or fishing. We protected the environment not because we had to but because it was the right thing to do.

A few comments from visitors to the Flambeau Mine:

- T. W. Chiefland, FL
 - "I applaud your efforts to protect the water & restore the environment."
- K. & C. Cypher Western Australia

"Amased at the concern taken in this public relations for accuracy on the mining companies' responsibility to the people of Wisconsin"

- D. & A. L. WI

"Thank you for all your hard work and caring for all things & people - God has given all things for His glory & our pleasure."

I looked up the word "moratorium" in the dictionary and found:

'So thorough was the moratorium on brains that nobody in power dared do any primary thinking' - J. R. Chamberlain.

I challenge you to do some primary thinking using logic when considering this bill. Ban mining and you put lots of people out of work - including me. You ruin local economies that support and supply goods and services to mines, you drive up the price of metals, you encourage mining in foreign countries where there are few environmental regulations and you deteriorate the trade balance. Face it folks, it's not a good idea particularly since we know we can mine safely without harming the environment. Again, the technology exists and there is no good reason to ban its use.

I say we should pass a bill to BAN MINING OPPOSITIONISTS. Most of these people are not concerned about the environment, they just don't have anything productive to do so they jump on the bandwagon to oppose nearly everything. Why do we even give people who constantly lie, time to express themselves? Freedom of speech is great but I don't agree with freedom to lie to harm others.

I write as a tax paying concerned citizen who depends on mining for a livelihood who happens to love living in Wisconsin.

October 13, 1997

Testimony provided by:

Jana E. Murphy

21217 County Hwy O Cadott, WI 54727

Environmental Mgr/Flambeau Mining Co.

RE: Senate Bill 3

As a 26 year resident of Wisconsin I have a vested interest in Wisconsin's environmental and economic health; and as the Environmental Manager at the Flambeau Mine (Flambeau) I know that mining can be and has been performed in an environmentally responsible manner.

Since initiating operations in 1993, the Flambeau Mine has taken the extra step to protect the environment. The state-of-the-art environmental protection systems that Flambeau has utilized have proven successful despite the doomsday predictions of a few individuals. The predictions of the mining opponents never came true. SB 3 is based on predictions and assumptions similar to those used to try to stop the Flambeau Mine. Mining opponents were wrong then and they are wrong now.

The Flambeau River has not been affected despite being only 140 feet from the Flambeau Mine. The water treatment plant consistently produces effluent with no detectable suspended solids and copper concentrations averaging 10 to 15 parts per billion. This is one hundredth of the drinking water standard and approximately one fourth of Flambeau's permit limit. This success at water treatment is due not only to the technology, but more importantly to the people. Our treatment plant operators can proudly state that they have had days when they produced effluent from a copper mine with no detectable copper.

The Flambeau Mine protects other areas of the environment in a similar fashion by use of proven technology, continuous improvement, and personal pride. The Flambeau Mine is an example that Wisconsin's rigorous environmental laws and permitting process are effective.

Senate Bill 3 is an inappropriate and unnecessary attempt to protect Wisconsin's environment at the expense of Wisconsin's economic well-being. Serious thought should be given to the message being sent to other industries in the State or those considering entering the State. Do we want industry to be distrustful of Wisconsin and choose to go elsewhere? Are we willing to give up good paying jobs in exchange for a piece of legislation that does not increase the protection of the environment to any degree? If SB 3 had been enacted previous to 1991, Flambeau may not have received its permits and had the opportunity to directly benefit the Ladysmith area.

Wisconsin has diligently enacted environmental laws which have resulted in Wisconsin being regarded as the leader in environmental protection. Included with these laws are those that regulate mining. Wisconsin has shown that the environment can be protected while there is still

an economic benefit to the State. By passing SB 3, the message being given is that Wisconsin's environmental regulations are deficient. But as previously indicated, Flambeau has proven otherwise.

Mining is essential for life as we know it and we all benefit from mining. If this anti-mining vengeance were to proceed within the State, we would still need the products derived from mining. Where should these products come from? Those opposed to mining continue to support mining every day of their hypocritical lives. The message they give is that mining is okay, but "Not In My BackYard."

Senate Bill 3 is poor policy because it is arbitrary and unscientific. It is based on statements proven to be wrong. With this kind of policy, Wisconsin may be viewed as a high risk, anti-industry state. Jobs, tax revenues and other benefits will be lost. And finally, Senate Bill 3 offers no environmental benefits.

The Flambeau Mine is an example of environmentally responsible mining in Wisconsin. It provides the proof that Wisconsin's permitting system works. Most of the individuals at the Flambeau Mine are long time Wisconsin residents who take pride in a job well done. Acknowledge our accomplishments and Wisconsin's accomplishments by **not** passing Senate Bill 3.